

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A shield ~~[[for]]~~ in association with a vehicle mounted spreader ~~element comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said spreader element having an axis, said shield comprising a wall radially spaced from and extending eccentrically about [[said]]~~ an axis, said wall having opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and means for supporting said wall relative to said spreader element said wall is a side wall and said shield includes a top wall from which said side wall depends, said top wall including an arcuate edge further defining said discharge opening.

2. (Currently Amended) The shield according to claim 1, wherein ~~said wall is a side wall and said shield includes a top wall from which said side wall depends, said top wall including further includes an opening coaxial with said axis, and said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 2, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said spreader element having an axis, said shield comprising a wall radially spaced from and extending eccentrically about said axis, said wall having opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and means for

supporting said wall relative to said spreader element, said wall is a side wall and said shield includes a top wall from which said side wall depends, said top wall including an opening coaxial with said axis.

said top wall tapers outwardly and downwardly relative to said axis.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 1, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said spreader element having an axis, said shield comprising a wall radially spaced from and extending eccentrically about said axis, said wall having opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and means for supporting said wall relative to said spreader element,

said wall is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.

5. (Original) The shield according to claim 4, wherein said wall includes a laterally outwardly extending flange, and said means for positioning said discharge opening includes means interengaging said flange and said support for limiting rotation of said wall.

6. (Original) The shield according to claim 5, wherein said means interengaging said flange and said support includes a circumferentially extending slot in one of said flange and support and fastener means on the other of said flange and support.

7. (Original) The shield according to claim 4, wherein said wall has a lower edge and includes a pair of circumferentially spaced apart stop elements extending below said edge, and said support includes an abutment for engaging with each stop element to limit rotation of said wall.

8. (Original) The shield according to claim 4, wherein said hopper includes a discharge sleeve, said wall is a side wall and said shield includes a top wall from which said side wall depends, said top wall including a circular collar coaxial with said axis and receiving said sleeve, and means interengaging said sleeve and said collar in any one of a plurality of angular positions therebetween.

9. (Original) The shield according to claim 8, wherein said means interengaging said sleeve and collar includes a spring biased ball on one of said collar and said sleeve and a plurality of circumferentially adjacent recesses on the other of said collar and sleeve.

10. (Original) The shield according to claim 9, wherein said spring biased ball is on said collar.

11. (Original) The shield according to claim 1, wherein said wall extends below [[said]] the spreader element and [[said]] a support includes means underlying said wall for supporting said wall relative to [[said]] the spreader element.

12. (Original) The shield according to claim 11, wherein ~~said hopper includes a discharge sleeve, said wall is a side wall and said shield includes a top wall from which said side wall depends, said top wall including~~ further includes a circular collar coaxial with said axis and receiving said sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) A shield ~~[[for]] in association with~~ a vehicle mounted spreader ~~element and a hopper comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above [[said]] the spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from [[said]] the hopper to [[said]] the spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said top wall includes a rear edge having an arcuate portion further defining said discharge opening,~~ and said side wall being eccentric with respect to said axis.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 13, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally

thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and said side wall being eccentric with respect to said axis,

said top wall tapers outwardly and downwardly relative to said axis from said opening to said side wall.

15. (Original) The shield according to claim 13, wherein said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 15, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and said side wall being eccentric with respect to said axis,

said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis,

said side wall has a lower edge and includes a laterally outwardly extending flange, and said means for positioning said discharge opening includes means interengaging said flange and said support for limiting rotation of said shield.

17. (Original) The shield according to claim 16, wherein said means interengaging said flange and said support includes a circumferentially extending slot in said flange and fastener means on said support.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 15, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and said side wall being eccentric with respect to said axis,

said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis,

said wall has a lower edge and includes a pair of circumferentially spaced apart stop elements extending below said edge, and said support includes an abutment for engaging with each stop element to limit rotation of said shield.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 15, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element,

an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and said side wall being eccentric with respect to said axis,

said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis,

said hopper includes a discharge sleeve and said top wall includes a circular collar coaxial with said axis and receiving said sleeve, and means interengaging said sleeve and said collar in any one of a plurality of angular positions therebetween.

20. (Original) The shield according to claim 19, wherein said means interengaging said sleeve and collar includes a spring biased ball on one of said collar and said sleeve and a plurality of circumferentially adjacent recesses on the other of said collar and sleeve.

21. (Original) The shield according to claim 20, wherein said spring biased ball is on said collar.

22. (Original) The shield according to claim 21, wherein said top wall slopes outwardly and downwardly from said opening to said side wall.

23. (Original) The shield according to claim 13, wherein said side wall extends below ~~[[said]]~~ the spreader element and ~~[[said]]~~ a support includes means underlying said wall for supporting said shield relative to ~~[[said]]~~ the spreader element.

24. (Original) The shield according to claim 23, wherein ~~said hopper includes a discharge sleeve~~ and said top wall further includes a circular collar coaxial with said axis ~~and receiving said sleeve~~.

25. (Original) The shield according to claim 24, wherein said discharge opening has an angular extent of between 140° and 160° with respect to said axis.

26. (Original) The shield according to claim 25, wherein said angular extent is about 153°.

27. (Original) The shield according to claim 24, wherein said wall is arcuate between said opposite ends and one of said opposite ends is closer to said axis than the other.

28. (Original) The shield according to claim 24, wherein said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.



29. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 28, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, and said side wall being eccentric with respect to said axis,

said side wall extends below said spreader element and said support includes means underlying said wall for supporting said shield relative to said spreader element,

said hopper includes a discharge sleeve and said top wall includes a circular collar coaxial with said axis and receiving said sleeve,

said shield is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis,

said side wall has a lower edge and includes a laterally outwardly extending flange, and said means for positioning said discharge opening includes means interengaging said flange and said support for limiting rotation of said shield.

30. (Original) The shield according to claim 29, wherein said means interengaging said flange and said support includes a circumferentially extending slot in said flange and fastener means on said support.

31. (Original) The shield according to claim 28, wherein said shield is constructed from high density polyethylene.

32. (Original) The shield according to claim 13, wherein said shield is constructed from high density polyethylene.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 33, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said shield being rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis,

said side wall has a lower edge and includes a laterally outwardly extending flange, and said means for positioning said discharge opening includes means interengaging said flange and said support for limiting rotation of said shield.

35. (Original) The shield according to claim 34, wherein said means interengaging said flange and said support includes a circumferentially extending slot in one of said flange and support and fastener means on the other of said flange and support.

36. (Original) The shield according to claim 35, wherein said slot is in said flange.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 33, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said shield being rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis,

said wall has a lower edge and includes a pair of circumferentially spaced apart stop elements extending below said edge, and said support includes an abutment for engaging with each stop element to limit rotation of said shield.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The shield according to claim 33, wherein~~ A shield for a vehicle mounted spreader comprising a support, a hopper for particulate material on said support, and a rotatable spreader element beneath said hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing

thereonto from said hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above said spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from said hopper to said spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said shield being rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.

said hopper includes a discharge sleeve and said top wall includes a circular collar coaxial with said axis and receiving said sleeve, and means interengaging said sleeve and said collar in any one of a plurality of angular positions therebetween.

39. (Original) The shield according to claim 38, wherein said means interengaging said sleeve and collar includes a spring biased ball on one of said collar and said sleeve and a plurality of circumferentially adjacent recesses on the other of said collar and sleeve.

40. (Original) The shield according to claim 39, wherein said spring biased ball is on said collar.

41. (New) A shield in association with a vehicle mounted rotatable spreader element comprising a support, said support includes a pair of straps and a motor mounting plate therebetween, the rotatable spreader element beneath an associated hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from the hopper, the spreader element having an axis, said shield comprising a wall radially spaced from and extending eccentrically about said axis, said wall

having opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said wall is rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, and said wall is frictionally engaged with at least one said strap and said mounting plate for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.

42. (New) A shield in association with a vehicle mounted rotatable spreader element comprising a support, the rotatable spreader element beneath an associated hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from the hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above the spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from the hopper to the spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said shield being rotatable in opposite directions about said axis, said side wall has a lower edge and includes a laterally outwardly extending flange, and a fastener interengaging said flange and said support for limiting rotation of said shield thereby selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.

43. (New) A shield in association with a vehicle mounted rotatable spreader element comprising a support, the rotatable spreader element beneath an associated hopper for broadcasting particulate material flowing thereonto from the hopper, said shield comprising a top wall spaced above the spreader element, an opening in said top wall for material flowing from the hopper to the spreader element, said opening having an axis, a side wall extending downwardly from said top wall and peripherally thereabout between opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a

discharge opening therebetween, and said top wall includes a rear edge having an arcuate portion further defining said discharge opening.

44. (New) A shield adapted to a vehicle mounted spreader element rotatable about an axis and having an associated hopper, said shield comprising a wall radially spaced from and extending eccentrically about said axis, said wall having opposite ends circumferentially spaced apart to provide a discharge opening therebetween, said wall is a side wall and said shield includes a top wall from which said side wall depends, said shield is rotatable about said axis, and means for selectively positioning said discharge opening in any one of a plurality of positions about said axis.

45. (New) The shield according to claim 44, wherein said top wall further includes an opening, and said top wall tapers outwardly and downwardly relative to said opening.

46. (New) The shield according to claim 44, wherein said discharge opening has an angular extent of between 140° and 160° with respect to said axis.

47. (New) The shield according to claim 46, wherein said angular extent is about 153°.

48. (New) The shield according to claim 44, wherein said wall has a lower edge and includes a pair of circumferentially spaced apart stop elements extending below said edge, and said means includes an abutment for engaging with each stop element to limit rotation of said shield

49. (New) The shield according to claim 44, wherein said side wall has a lower edge and includes a laterally outwardly extending flange, and said means for positioning said discharge opening includes means interengaging said flange and a support for limiting rotation of said shield.

50. (New) The shield according to claim 44, wherein the hopper includes a discharge sleeve, said top wall including a circular collar coaxial with said axis and receiving said sleeve, and said means interengaging said sleeve and said collar in any one of a plurality of angular positions therebetween